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of Women in Development

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 535(XX) WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA BY THE ECA/AFRICAN TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE FOR WOMEN

April 1985-April 1986

A. Introduction

The Sixth meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 15 to 17 April 1985 adopted resolutions calling for sustained assistance to women programmes. In reply to the call, the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) of the Economic Commission for Africa directed its efforts towards the enhancement of women opportunities and expansion of women data in order to ensure their full and effective participation in development activities of the continent. Subsequently, a work programme was drawn in line with recommendations of the Arusha strategies to encompass research and training activities, institution building as well as various attempts to conceptualize the women's question in all sectors of development planning.

This report shows Centre's implementation the Resolution 535(XX) during the period April 1985-April 1986.

B. Follow-up to Resolution 535(XX)

1. Assistance to national machineries

Assistance to national machineries consisted of advisory services and training organized at the regional, subregional or national levels in order to ensure that women concerns are incorporated in the mainstream of national development efforts. During the period under review, consultancy services were provided to Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Malawi. Fact finding and advisory services mission were carried out on request from member States. These took place in Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles. In addition, on 12-14 February 1985, the Centre received a delegation from Djibouti lead by the Secretary General of the Union des Femmes de Djibouti. The purpose of the visit was to finalize preparations for a seminar on national machineries which would be organized in Djibouti, from 26 to 29 May 1986.

Training was organized at the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute in Arusha, Tanzania in two courses: The subregional executive development seminar for women managers which took place from 17 to 28 June 1985 and the subregional seminar on women management and development planning organized from 2 September to 11 October 1985.

In an effort to expand and improve the data base on on women, the Centre organized in close collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, a workshop on Improving Statistics and Indicators for Women and Development Planning from 29 April to 7 May 1985 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The workshop brought together 45 participants from 13 countries of the East and Southern Africa subregion. Countries were represented by producers and users of those statistics. While no formal recommendations were made, participants expressed their commitment to work for continued dialogue between users and producers of statistics on women in development at the national level. ECA has already received requests for assistance to mount similar national workshops.

Once established the indicators and statistics on women would facilitate the inclusion of women issues in development plans.

In addition to the above, the Centre has revised the Directory of National Machineries for publication and a study on the effectiveness of national machineries was initiated.

2. Signing and ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Although this Convention was addressed to member States, ECA/ATRCW has undertaken a study on the implementation of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in Africa. The study was carried out in five countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya and Rwanda. It will enable the Centre to promote the adherence of African Governments to the Convention and to monitor its implementation. As the Convention has set up a global machinery for the international supervision of the obligations accepted by States, the ECA study will be an important contribution to its work.

It should be noted that the Convention was opened for signature by governments on 1 March 1980 with the provision that it would come into force after 20 states had consented to be bound by its provision either through ratification or accession. Thus the Convention came into force in September 1981.

As of February 1985, 102 countries had signed the Convention; of these 30 were African Governments. Those who have ratified or acceded to the Convention were 66 countries; of these 12 are from the Africa region.

3. Inclusion of a women's component in national development projects

In this respect, the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute in Arusha has been organizing a series of courses under the Women in Development Programme. These courses are designed to create an awareness women's issues in development with a view to influence development plans. Two courses took place during the period April 85-April 86. They were attended by high level decision making women and men of the Lusaka based MULPOC with five participants from the Niamey based MULPOC. It is envisaged to set up a similar programme in other subregions.

In addition, the Centre has initiated a new approach which consists of assisting women in preparing and participating in Donors Round Tables, country programming and in National Technical Co-operation Assessments and Programmes (Natcaps). In this way, the Centre ensures that women's concerns are incorporated in national programmes/projects.

4. Follow-up to the Arusha Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa Beyond the United Nations Decade for Women

Since its adoption in October 1984, the Arusha Strategies have been published as a separate pamphlet. A substantial part of these strategies are reflected in the Nairobi strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000 adopted by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held on 15-26 July 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Arusha strategies have also been the basis for ECA project proposals submitted to donor governments and agencies. This is the case for the proposals for the fourth cycle of the UNDP, 1987-1991, which concentrate on the five key sectors identified by the strategies: Agriculture and food production, desertification, industries, development planning and human resources development.

5. Mobilization of human and financial resources for women projects

ECA assisted governments in mobilization of human resources for women projects through training courses, workshops and seminars aimed at increasing women competences in various technical fields. In this connexion, two training entrepreneurship courses were organized at the College of Adult and Distance Education in Kenya from 15 April to 21 June 1985 and 27 January to 28 March 1986 for English speaking countries. For French-speaking countries, the courses were held at the Centre Ivoirien de Gestion des Entreprises in Côte d'Ivoire from 25 February to 3 May 1985 and 20 May to 26 July 1985. A total of 40 countries participated in the courses which were designed to enhance women capacity to set up and run successfully their small scale enterprises. An evaluation of the impact of the training programme is underway.

Based on two case studies carried out in Burundi and Zaire, on the textile industries, an inter-regional seminar on Development and Management of Women Textile Cooperatives was organized for French-speaking countries in Mali, from 14 October to 1 November 1985. The seminar was attended by 28 women from the following eight countries: Burundi, Congo, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Togo. The purpose of the seminar was to assist women in quality production and improve their management skills.

A subregional workshop on women's participation in water and sanitation activities was organized from 13 to 18 January 1986, in Lilongwe, Malawi, for countries of the East and Southern Africa Subregion. A study carried out earlier on women's participation in water and sanitation activities in Lesotho was one of the inputs to the seminar.

Another subregional seminar on appropriate technologies took place in Yaounde in October 1985 for the Central Africa Subregion. The purpose of the seminar was to exchange views on how to introduce improved technologies to the subregion.

A national training seminar on administration and management of cooperatives was held in Kinshasa, Zaire, from 19 to 28 June 1985. This seminar brought together 20 women who would on their turn train others in administration and management of cooperatives. Similarly, the Niamey based MULPOC organized a subregional seminar for French-speaking countries on the role of cooperatives in the process of integrating women in the industrial development on 10-25 November 1985.

Operational programmes designed to assist low-income women were: upgrading of traditional techniques in tie-dye in Togo, Senegal and Cameroon; training in optimal nutritional use of food donated for relief and food for work activities in Ethiopia; placement of two national volunteers to set up day care programmes in the context of rehabilitation and relief programme in Ethiopia. Whenever possible, the Centre has encouraged the use of existing expertise on the continent for promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries.

With regard to the mobilisation of financial resources, following fact finding missions in Angola, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe in January 1985, three project documents were developed for consideration by the countries concerned and submitted to the United Nations Development Fund for Women for funding. If funds are procured in 1986, assistance to Lusophonic countries will be enhanced. Another project was developed for rehabilitation of women in drought affected countries. The project is likely to be implemented in 1986. The ECA assistance in preparation and participation of women in Donor's Round Tables stated in B(3) above is another attempt to increase the capability of women to secure funds for their projects.

6. Material and moral support to women in apartheid South Africa and illegally occupied Namibia

Though this paragraph is addressed to governments, ECA has carried out a study on women and apartheid in South Africa and Namibia. The study will sensitize the international community on the situation of women living under the apartheid South Africa and illegally occupied Namibia. The ECA study was used as a background document in the World Conference.

7. Ensuring the continuity of the United Nations regional and subregional women's programmes

Following adoption of this resolution, ECA requested funding of four senior level posts: one P5 and three P4. The resolution was submitted by ECA to ECOSOC for consideration. ECOSOC supported it but due to budgetary constraints the ECA was only able to secure one senior post in 1986 for research activities. This brings to three the total of regular posts of the ECA women's programme.

8. Report on the implementation of resolution 535

On 24 November 1985, ECA wrote to member States requesting them to submit reports on the implementation of this resolution. At the time of writing this report, only three countries had sent their contribution: Rwanda, Morocco and Tanzania. Reports received were reproduced for distribution during the meeting. They will be presented to the Committee by the ARCC members under agenda item 3(b).

10 & 11. Review of ways in which apartheid hampers the integration of women in development process and study of ways of publicizing government's commitment to resolving the issue of women in Southern Africa, particularly in apartheid South Africa and illegally occupied Namibia

As stated earlier, a study on women and apartheid in South Africa and Namibia was finalized during the period under review. The study will be widely disseminated in 1986.

C. Other activities

The Centre has carried out other activities which fall within its work programme. These are related to research and cooperation with other organizations. With regard to research, the following studies were completed during the period under review: Law and the Status of Women in Ghana; Le droit et la Condition de la Femme en République Centrafricane; Le droit et la condition de la femme au Zaire; women in the artisanal fishing industry in Senegal and Ghana; La teintureric artisanale des tissus dans la ville de Lubumbashi (Zaire); La teinturerie artisanale de l'Union Revolutionnaire des femmes du Congo; Marketing in Ghana.

On the other hand, the Centre has made substantive inputs to several international meetings. These meetings are: the World Conference to review and appraise achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women held in Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985; the Sixth meeting of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (3-7 February 1986); Meeting of Regional Commissions and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (10-12 February 1986).